

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1 - 5. (canceled)

1 6. (currently amended) ~~The container system according~~
2 ~~claim 5 that~~ A container system for transporting and storing
3 highly radioactive materials, the system comprising:
4 a cylindrical outer container having a side wall, cover,
5 and floor all made of reinforced concrete with a neutron absorber;;
6 a cylindrical inner container inside the outer container
7 and having a side wall, cover, and floor all made of reinforced
8 concrete with a neutron absorber, the inner container holding the
9 radioactive material; and
10 springs ~~(10 and 11)~~ bearing against [[an]] inner surfaces
11 [[(9)]] of the side wall [[(5)]], of the cover [[(6)]], and of the
12 floor [[(7)]] of the outer container and bearing on outer surfaces
13 of the side wall, of the cover, and of the floor of the inner
14 container and supporting the inner container in the outer
15 container.

7. (canceled)

1 8. (currently amended) The container system according
2 claim 6 ~~7~~, characterized in that wherein the springs ~~[[11]]~~
3 bearing on the cover ~~[[6]]~~ and the floor ~~[[7]]~~ have a longer
4 spring travel and a higher spring constant than the springs bearing
5 on the side walls.

1 9. (currently amended) The container system according
2 claim ~~8~~, characterized in that wherein the springs ~~[[10]]~~ bearing
3 on the side wall ~~[[5]]~~ have a shorter spring travel and a lower
4 spring constant than the springs bearing on the floors and covers.

1 10. (currently amended) The container system according
2 claim ~~9~~, characterized in that wherein the springs ~~[[10]]~~ bearing
3 on the side wall ~~[[5]]~~ are distributed rotation symmetrically
4 about its inner surface ~~[[9]]~~.

1 11. (currently amended) The container system according
2 claim ~~10~~, characterized in that wherein a plurality of the springs
3 ~~[[10]]~~ are distributed in a row longitudinally of the side wall
4 ~~[[5]]~~.

1 12. (currently amended) The container system according
2 claim ~~11~~, characterized in that wherein each spring ~~(10 and 11)~~ is
3 provided with a prestressing device that prestresses it outwardly
4 toward the outer container ~~[[1]]~~.

1 13. (currently amended) The container system according
2 to claim 12, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the prestressing devices
3 are threaded bolts that extend through the side wall ~~[[5]]~~, the
4 cover ~~[[6]]~~ and the floor ~~[[7]]~~ and engage with an internal
5 thread in a bracing washer that the springs ~~(10 and 11)~~ bear inward
6 on.

1 14. (currently amended) The container system according
2 claim 13, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the inner container ~~[[2]]~~
3 is generally completely enclosed in an intermediate container
4 ~~[[3]]~~ having a side wall ~~[[12]]~~, a cover ~~[[13]]~~ and a floor
5 ~~[[14]]~~ against which the springs ~~(10 and 11)~~ are braced.

1 15. (currently amended) The container system according
2 claim 14, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the side wall ~~[[12]]~~ of
3 the intermediate container ~~[[3]]~~ is made of prestressed
4 reinforced spun concrete with the addition of ~~for example boron~~
5 ~~oxide as~~ an additional neutron absorber.

1 16. (currently amended) The container system according
2 to claim 15 characterized in that the cover ~~[[13]]~~ and the floor
3 ~~[[14]]~~ of the intermediate container ~~[[3]]~~ is made of
4 reinforced concrete with the addition of ~~for example boron oxide as~~
5 an additional neutron absorber.

1 17. (currently amended) The container system according
2 to claim 15 characterized in that the cover ~~[[13]]~~ and the floor
3 ~~[[14]]~~ of the intermediate container ~~[[3] is]~~ are made of
4 prestressed reinforced spun concrete with the addition of ~~for~~
5 ~~example boron oxide as an additional neutron absorber.~~

1 18. (currently amended) The container system according
2 claim 17, side-wall, cover, and floor inner surfaces ~~(15, 16, and~~
3 ~~17)~~ of the intermediate container ~~[[3]]~~ have respective
4 polyethylene layers ~~(18, 19, and 20)~~ for moderating neutrons
5 generated by the radioactive material inside the inner container
6 ~~[[2]]~~.

1 19. (currently amended) The container system according
2 claim 18, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the inner container ~~[[2]]~~
3 is double-walled and has between the inner wall ~~[[21]]~~ and outer
4 wall ~~[[22]]~~ of its side wall ~~[[23]]~~, of its cover ~~[[24]]~~, and
5 of its floor ~~[[25]]~~ spaces (26, 27, and 28) a gamma- and neutron-
6 ray absorber ~~[[29]]~~.

1 20. (currently amended) The container system according
2 claim 19, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the absorber ~~[[29]]~~
3 generally fully surrounds an inner chamber ~~[[30]]~~ of the inner
4 container ~~[[2]]~~.

1 21. (currently amended) The container system according
2 claim 20, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the absorber is comprised
3 of depleted uranium ~~(uranium oxide)~~ or a similarly effective
4 material.

1 22. (currently amended) The container system according
2 claim 21, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the inner container is
3 comprised of stainless steel with contamination-reducing smooth
4 surfaces.

1 23. (currently amended) The container system according
2 claim 22, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the inner container [(2)]
3 has on an upper surface of its cover [(24)] an annular flange
4 [(24)] that projects outward from the inner container [(2)] and
5 that is of the same outer diameter as an outer surface of the side
6 wall [(12)] of the intermediate container [(3)].

1 24. (currently amended) The container system according
2 claim 23, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the inner container [(2)]
3 has a mounting ring [(37)] closing an annular gap between the
4 inside wall [(21)] and the outer wall [(22)] at the annular
5 flange [(34)] and formed with threaded bores [(38)] receiving
6 mounting bolts [(39)] that traverse and secure the cover [(24)]
7 of the inner container [(2)].

1 25. (currently amended) The container system according
2 claim 24, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein above the cover ~~[(24)]~~ of
3 the inner container ~~[(2)]~~ there is an intermediate cover ~~[(40)]~~
4 that is secured by threaded bolts ~~[(41)]~~ to the annular flange
5 ~~[(34)]~~ and that is covered on its lower face ~~[(42)]~~ by a layer
6 of polyethylene ~~[(13)]~~.

1 26. (currently amended) The container system according
2 claim 25, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the side walls ~~(5 and 12)~~,
3 the covers ~~(6 and 13)~~, and the floor ~~s (7 and 14)~~ of the outer
4 container ~~[(1)]~~ and of the intermediate container ~~[(3) p]~~ are
5 provided with longitudinally throughgoing tubes ~~(43 and 44)~~ in
6 which are provided mounting elements ~~(45 and 46)~~ for prestressing
7 and closing the outer container ~~[(1)]~~ and the intermediate
8 container ~~[(3)]~~.

1 27. (currently amended) The container system according
2 claim 26, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the mounting elements ~~(45~~
3 ~~and 46)~~ are tie rods.

1 28. (currently amended) The container system according
2 claim 27, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the outer container ~~[(s~~
3 ~~(1)]~~ is provided adjacent its floor ~~[(7)]~~ with a plurality of
4 air-inlet openings ~~[(47)]~~ and near its cover ~~[(6)]~~ with a
5 plurality of air-outlet openings ~~[(48)]~~ distributed ~~radially~~
6 symmetrically over the side wall ~~[(5)]~~.

1 29. (currently amended) The container system according
2 claim 28, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the air-inlet openings
3 ~~[[47]]~~ and the air-outlet openings ~~[[48]]~~ are closable.

30. (canceled).

1 31. (new) The container system according to claim 6,
2 wherein the neutron absorber is boron oxide.